A NEW SPECIES OF ERIBOLUS FROM CALIFORNIA

(Diptera, Chloropidae)

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A revision of *Elachiptera* and related genera, including *Eribolus* Becker, was recently published by the writer (1948, Jour. Wash. Acad. Sci. 38(11): 365-382) with a key to the Nearctic species. Since then several specimens of both sexes of a new species of *Eribolus* have been discovered. The species is an interesting example of the difficulty often observed in Chloropidae, of finding consistent characters to separate groups of closely related species. Absence of the characteristic pair of well-developed fronto-orbital bristles and the slenderness of the arista would ordinarily have placed this species in *Oscinella* rather than in *Eribolus*, but the structure of the head and thorax, the chaetotaxy, and its close similarity to *E. nearcticus* Sabrosky all cause me to consider it as merely an aberrant *Eribolus*.

Eribolus californicus Sabrosky, new species

♂, ♀. Almost entirely black, the third antennal segment bright yellow in the male, but orange with narrow infuscation along dorsal and distal margins in the female, palpus yellow to orange, and halter knob bright yellow; entire head dark gray to leaden gray pollinose, the frontal triangle only weakly distinct from the front; mesonotum, scutellum, metanotum, and upper portions of meso- and pteropleuron gray pollinose, the lower half of pleuron smooth and polished black; abdomen rather shining, though sparsely and inconspicuously pollinose.

Front at vertex nearly half the width of head (0.46) and nearly as broad as long (0.86-0.90); frontal triangle three-fourths the length of front; length and height of head subequal; eye diagonal, the longest axis approximately 45° from vertical axis of head; cheek strongly slanting mesad, in profile its height only half the breadth of third antennal segment; arista slender, not thickened except for basal segment; no fronto-orbital hairs outstanding, though the middle hairs in the fronto-orbital row are

somewhat longer than the others. Mesonotum relatively smooth, with scarcely any obvious punctures and only minutely roughened on the flattened posterior slope; bristles moderate to short, not conspicuous, the posterior dorsocentrals especially weak; 1+1 notopleural; only the apical pair of scutellars evident, strong though short, erect, and black; subapicals pale, weak, and not appearing as distinct bristles. Second and third costal sectors subequal, the second barely longer (1.02-1.07 times). Length, 2 mm.

Holotype female, SAN DIEGO, CALIF., Nov. 18, 1916 (H. G. Dyar), U. S. National Museum, Type No. 59283. Allotype; Martinez, Calif., July 11, 1917 (J. M. Aldrich) [Malloch Colln.]. Paratypes: ♂, same data as allotype [Malloch Colln.]; ♀, San Simeon, Calif., Sept. 25, 1938 (M. Cazier) [Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.].

The entirely black legs, with no color even at the knees, and the marked contrast between the entirely or predominantly yellow to orange third antennal segment and the black basal segments, easily distinguish this species from its congeners.

KEY TO THE FOUR NEARCTIC SPECIES OF ERIBOLUS

1. Legs predominantly bright yellow, including fore coxa, fore femur entirely or predominantly, and mid and hind femora basally; palpus yellow in male, more or less infuscated in female; eastern North America.....*E. longulus* (Loew)

–. Legs entirely or predominantly black, including fore coxa and all femora except sometimes knees narrowly; northern and western North America.....2

2. Antenna entirely black, or virtually so; palpus black in both sexes.....*E. sudeticus* Becker

–. Antenna entirely or in large part yellow to orange; palpus yellow to orange in both sexes.....3

3. Basal antennal segments black, contrasting strongly with the bright yellow to orange third segment; legs entirely black..... .....*E. californicus* Sabrosky

–. Basal antennal segments testaceous; legs with yellow tibiae and tarsi, at most the distal tarsal segments infuscated and the hind tibia with a median brown band.....*E. nearcticus* Sabrosky